



June 27, 2005

Yerxa Road Underpass Construction Update

What's Happening at Yerxa Road?

As you have probably noticed, there has not been much construction activity at the underpass over the past number of weeks. This is because the City's contractor has uncovered foundations of an old municipal incinerator. The foundations are located to the west of the existing underpass, where we were planning to relocate utility lines. Over the last several weeks, we have been working with our design team to redesign the project so as to avoid construction in this area.

Why Must These Utilities Be Redesigned?

Portions of the existing storm drain, sewer line and water lines are located under the existing underpass. Before construction can begin on the new underpass, these utilities have to be relocated.

During initial test pitting operations, the contractor identified the concrete foundations from the old municipal incinerator building. We tested some of the foundation material and found a very small amount of the material to be asbestos containing. We also tested a small ash layer and found it to contain lead in concentrations exceeding those that are reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The test pits were backfilled after survey and sampling work was completed, and we expect to work with DEP as appropriate remedial actions are developed.

The City is committed to seeing this project through to completion. In order to move forward with construction, the project has been redesigned so as to avoid construction in the area of the incinerator foundations. With the redesign, no excavation or construction activities are planned in the area where we identified asbestos containing material or lead.

What Construction Activity Can I Expect Over the Next Several Weeks?

The redesigned utility work will be starting soon and the MBTA is scheduled to shift the railroad tracks over the weekend of July 9th and 10th 2005. After the shifting of the tracks, the contractor will begin work on the major structural components of the underpass.

Thank you for your patience during this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 349-4829 with any questions or concerns as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Owen O' Riordan
City Engineer